



COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows. A copy of the amended claims with markings to show the changes made is appended hereto.

✓ 1. (amended) A method for implanting a heart valve anchor in a patient's heart annulus including:

selecting an anchor device for receipt through said annulus including spaced apart ring elements shiftable axially relative to one another from recessed to deployed positions and a retainer retained between said rings operable upon said rings being shifted from a retainer recessed position to a retainer deployed position projecting radially outwardly;

accessing an artery of said patient and inserting said anchor device therethrough to position it in said annulus; and

shifting said rings axially relative to one another to said deployed position to shift said retainer to said retainer deployed position.

✓ 2. (amended) The method for implanting a heart valve anchor as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said step of selecting said anchor device includes selecting said anchor device to include a radially outwardly projecting stop ring on a proximal end thereof; and

said step of inserting said anchor device includes inserting it sufficiently far to position said stop ring on a proximal side of said annulus.

✓ 3. (amended) The method for implanting a heart valve anchor as set forth in claim 1, that includes the steps of:

after shifting said retainer to said retainer deployed position, shifting said rings to said recessed position to shift said retainer from said retainer deployed position to said retainer recessed position.

✓ 4. (amended) The method for implanting a heart valve anchor as set forth in claim 1, that includes:

imbedding said retainer in said annulus.

A2 6. (amended) The method for implanting a heart valve anchor as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said rings are threaded to one another and said step of shifting said rings includes rotating said rings relative to one another to shift them axially relative to one another.

A3 ✓ 8. (amended) An implantable anchor device for anchoring in an annulus, comprising:

first and second ring elements for receipt in said annulus, said rings spaced apart and shiftable axially relative to one another from a retracted to a deployed position; and

a retainer device interposed between said rings and operable upon said rings being shifted to said deployed position to project radially outwardly to engage under a shelf of said annulus.

A4 ✓ 13. (amended) An anchor device as set forth in claim 10, wherein:
said coupler includes screw threads.